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N OF EIGHT-PAGE WEEKLY IN KE.

# BIG SANDY NEWS.

Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, AUGUST 21, 1914.

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher.

## FIVE UNKNOWN ITALIAN BANDITS KILL AND ROB NINE OFFICIALS.

## GLEN ALUM TRAGEDY DEATH TOLL ELEVEN, WITH TWO OF SHERIFF'S POSSE WOUNDED

Eleven Lives Lost and Two Wounded in Bloody Battles Near  
Glen Alum, W. Va. One of the Most Horrible  
Tragedies in History of Mingo County.

The first published account of the murder and robbery at Glen Alum, W. Va., was the following in the Williamson Daily News of Saturday, August 16th. The scene of the tragedy is on the N. & W. railway about 30 miles east of Williamson:

Dr. W. D. Amick, company physician; F. D. Johnson, bookkeeper, and Joseph Shielor, electrician, of the Glen Alum Coal Company, were murdered by highwaymen just before noon Friday.

This startling information reached here in shape of a message to Sheriff G. W. Hatfield, who immediately organized a posse and started to the scene on a special train, placed at his disposal by N. & W. officials.

Walter Speed, the N. & W. agent at Glen Alum, telephoned to officials of the Glen Alum Coal Company, who were in Williamson attending court, that the bodies of the murdered men had been discovered by two traveling men who were walking from the station toward the camp.

Other messages were received by the officials of the company, but none of them gave further details. It was not stated whether the three victims had been shot or killed in some other manner.

It was stated here that the amount of money secured by the highwaymen was in the neighborhood of \$10,000. The money was shipped on No. 15 from a Lynchburg bank and Dr. Amick, Johnson and Shielor met the train to act as guards from the Glen Alum station to the coal camp, a distance of four miles.

The murder occurred somewhere between the main line station and the camp. The topography of the locality is such as to afford numerous hiding places near the track.

Evidently the highwaymen were well posted as to the mission of their victims and it is believed by local authorities that the highwaymen lay in wait and shot down their victims before making any demand for the money.

It is also believed that the assassins are employees of the Glen Alum company or had been employees at some time or other. No word reached here until press time that there was any real clue to their identity.

The assassins were doubtless acquainted with the conditions at Glen Alum, for they chose a most auspicious time for their foul deed. General Superintendent Yeast, Treasurer Fink and Hubert Butcher, special officer, and Magistrate Howard Toler were all in Williamson attending court as witnesses, and until the arrival of the sheriff with his posse there was no one to organize pursuit.

No. 15 passed Glen Alum at 11:05 a. m. It was probably half an hour later when the three men met their death. The first message reached here about 1:30 and at 2:15 the engine carrying the sheriff's posse left for Glen Alum, a distance of 30 miles.

It was stated that a stop would be made at Matewan to take on the bloodhounds owned by Al Hoskins. These dogs are young but have shown well on the trail.

Messages have been sent to every station along the N. & W. and scores of officers are watching every train. Sheriff Hatfield will take his posse into the mountains and the viciousness of the crime makes it almost certain that the assassins will offer resistance if found.

The three murdered men were among the prominent citizens of the county. Dr. Amick was widely known and had been physician at Glen Alum for a number of years. He was prominent in public affairs and was well liked and highly respected. He leaves a wife and several children.

Mr. Johnson was a native of Lynchburg and had been in the employ of the company for several years. He is also survived by a wife and family. Mr. Shielor's home, it is stated, was in Floyd county, Virginia. He was single.

Later particulars are from the telegram sent to the Huntington Herald-Dispatch:

Williamson, W. Va., Aug. 16.—After surrounding the five bandits who yesterday killed three officials and stole the \$10,000 payroll of the Glen Alum mines, the posse of deputy sheriffs and mine detectives fired into each other in the darkness and killed six or eight of their own number, according to a telegraphic report received here late tonight from Circuit Judge James Damron, who is with the posse at War Eagle.

Judge Damron reported that two of the bandits were killed by the pursuing

posse, but three probably have escaped.

One of the bandits, Harve Prater, late tonight entered the Alnwick station of the Norfolk & Western railway several miles from War Eagle and at the point of a revolver ordered the telegraph operator to signal a light engine to stop. Prater clambered into the cab and, covering the locomotive driver with his revolver, made him proceed west. The operator telegraphed to War Eagle to have the engine stopped, but Prater made the engineer disregard the signal and ordered him to proceed to within half a mile of Glen Alum where he made him stop and escaped.

Judge Damron's message can be taken as authentic and the mortalities thus far number more than a dozen including the three men slain when the payroll was stolen—two deputy sheriffs killed when the bandits ambushed the posse; two robbers killed tonight when they were surrounded; and at least half dozen of the pursuers killed when the posse became disorganized in the darkness and fired into its own ranks.

The posse will remain at War Eagle until morning and then try to run down the bandits. A posse has been formed to search for Prater at Glen Alum.

The situation is momentarily becoming more serious and alarming. Either the bandits were in greater numbers than anticipated or they have been reinforced since being traced to the Spring Fork branch of Ben Creek. The wildest excitement prevailed among the posse because of the firing.

It was reported from War Eagle at 10:50 that two of the bandits had escaped from a thicket and entered a cave. The officers sent to War Eagle for explosives and will blow up the cave. This message confirmed report of killing of two bandits, and stated that a third was wounded.

The names of but two of those killed in the battles today are known. These were:

G. T. Epling, Baldwin-Felts detective, stationed at Thacker, this county, for a number of years.

William Burwell, of Twin Branch, McDowell county, also a Baldwin-Felts detective.

Ed Mounts, one of Sheriff Hatfield's posse, was shot through the hip and may be fatally wounded. Both Epling and Burwell died on the firing line, the bandits having first been run to their lair on a little stream known as the Spring Fork branch of Ben Creek.

In a natural fortress high up on the mountainside the bandits at first had all the advantage of their pursuers. The first battle was fought about noon today when ten members of Sheriff Hatfield's posse, who had been hot on the trail all day first came within rifle range. A hundred or more shots were exchanged and after Mounts was wounded, the posse drew off to await reinforcements and to give flanking parties time to come up. The bandits also killed one of the blood hounds.

Epling, Burwell and a number of other Baldwin-Felts men were first to come up after Mounts had been wounded. Brave and fearless, these two men with others following attempted to ascend the mountain, their plan being to take the bandits by surprise if possible. The trees and underbrush did not afford complete concealment and they were picked off by the bandits, who are armed with high-powered guns. The bodies of the two men were recovered with great difficulty.

The two clashes served to identify three of the bandits, all of them young men and native Americans. They are alleged to be Harve Prater, Mel Samson and Young Bud Rutherford, alias Hurley. The identity of two others, supposed to be in the band, has not been learned. Two of them are said to have criminal records and all have always been regarded as dangerous and desperate men. About one year ago Prater killed his father and elder brother at their home on Knox Creek, but escaped punishment by pleading that he came to his father's rescue when the elder brother assaulted him. Samson has served a term in the penitentiary going up from this county on being convicted the second time for carrying a pistol. He had been out of prison about six months. Rutherford's father, whose first name is also Bud Rutherford, was arrested this afternoon. It is not believed, however, that he was with the others when the crime was committed, but he might have been an accomplice. Messages from Sheriff Hatfield indicate that the officers may not be able to control the

posse. Sheriff Hatfield had but twenty men when he left here, while the searching party now numbers close to five hundred. As news of the battle spread, the men, probably five hundred in number, scattered about over several miles of territory and began to assemble around the lair of the bandits. Before night fall it was entirely surrounded. Judge Damron and several officers left for the scene this evening to prevent a lynching if possible. Sheriff Hatfield had been fully convinced all day that the men will never surrender. It was his plan to advance on the bandits from all sides before dark to prevent, if possible, further loss of life. It was almost certain that another final battle will be fought and news of it was expected here at any minute. Although rain poured in torrents, Sheriff Hatfield and his posse clung to the trail.

So slow and dangerous was their progress that they covered a distance of less than five miles. The bandits also met almost insurmountable difficulties, but the storm was in their favor, making their trail harder to follow. At one point they fell or jumped down a sheer precipice thirty feet high. A flash light which gave out during the night was found by their pursuers. Particles of soap were also found along the trail, the bandits having used it to bathe the mounts.

The trail led across the mountains towards the home of Young Bud Rutherford, which is on Ben Creek and only a short distance from where the bandits were run to earth. Hurley's home is not more than three miles from the scene of the murder. Among those who followed the trail all night was Young Anse Hatfield, son of the famous Devil Anse. He proved more efficient on the trail than the blood hounds, keeping ahead of them all night.

Additional details of the murder of the three coal company officers show the crime to have been one of the most brutal ever committed here. Dr. Amick died first, the first shot knocking him from the motor car to the ground. He was shot from the mountainside to the left. Immediately Johnson and Shielor jumped from the car down a small embankment which screened them from Amick's assassin, but the bandits were ambushed on both sides of the track and the two men were shot in the back.

Dr. Amick was shot eight times although the first one killed him instantly. Johnson and Shielor were shot five or six times each. Most of the shots were fired from close range, some of them from a shotgun and others from rifles and revolvers. The identity of the others cannot be learned.

In the first battle today it was reported that Detective Lindsay Hatfield, (Continued on page five.)

## LIST OF JURORS FOR LAWRENCE CIRCUIT COURT.

### List of Grand and Petit Jurors for the August Term.

The following is the list of jurors who have been summoned to serve for the August term of the Lawrence Circuit Court:

Grand Jurors.	
W. M. Dean	Ed Skaggs
S. Z. Frazier	Mat Moore
George R. Carter	John B. Diamond
Andrew Austin	J. R. Castle
R. N. Cox	Milt Thompson
Lewis Sparks	J. D. Ball
H. B. Highberger	Millard O'Brien
M. E. Sparks	Taylor Holbrook
Milt Diamond	Roscoe Baker
John P. Riffe	Roll Eatep
Hugh Sparks	M. L. Wright
G. C. Maynard	

Petit Jurors.	
O. G. Smith	Dock Travis
James Pruitt	Lafe Moore
Merithell Ross	G. R. McGuire
J. C. See	S. S. Bellomy
G. A. Haws	Lindsay Lester
M. B. See	Van Wellman
Oscar Graham	A. Preston
Carl Bussey	U. L. Shannon
R. F. Skaggs	W. W. See
Weeley Jordan	Burrell Derfield
Tom McClure	W. M. Chambers
Lindsay Wellman	G. V. Burton
Milt Hays	T. T. Thompson
Harmon Blackburn	Dock Jordan
F. C. Childers	E. G. Cordle
J. Hardwick	Harmon Cordle
Felix Adams	John Holbrook
Trig Fraley	Jay Hammond
Isaac Adams	Richard Beicher
Gabe Endicott	E. B. Curnutte

### DEATH OF A GOOD WOMAN.

On Sunday night last Mrs. Carter, widow of Mr. Thomas Carter, died at her late home on Irish Creek, near Prosperity postoffice, after a lingering illness. She was a good woman, highly esteemed as friend and neighbor. She was about 60 years old, and was an aunt of Judge T. S. Thompson, of this city. Mrs. Carter's daughter, Mrs. G. Dean, and her husband and daughter, of Columbus, O., came in an automobile to attend the burial of her mother, arriving in Louisa early on Monday morning and going on to the place of interment.

Mrs. Carter was the grandmother of Monroe Adams and Miss Jettie Adams, of Louisa.

### ICE CREAM FESTIVAL.

There will be an ice cream festival at the Evergreen school house Saturday night, Sept. 5th. Everybody cordially invited.

ALLEN MILLER, teacher.

## POPE PIUS DIES OF BROKEN HEART.

Cable Announcing His Death Received  
at 2:26 P. M. Wednesday.

Rome, Italy, Aug. 19.—Pope Pius is dead.

The above message was received at the New York office of the United Press from its Rome correspondent, Henry Woods. Earlier messages today indicated that His Holiness was in a very bad way. The first bulletin today said he was threatened with pneumonia. It was stated his sister and a doctor were constantly at his bedside. It was later reported that Cardinal Merry del Val, the Papal secretary of State, had summoned back to Rome all of the Cardinals who recently left there.

The cable announcing his death was received at 2:26 p. m. The death of the Pope was due to the war. He died practically of a broken heart. For days before the war broke out he was deeply concerned and he notified all heads of the church throughout Europe to work for peace. Up until hostilities actually began, the Pope did not believe that war could come between civilized nations at this late day. When he heard that Germany had declared war on Russia, and realized that the spark actually had been kindled he broke down. His Holiness swooned and was unconscious for several minutes. Physicians were called in and had to minister powerful restoratives.

There was a slight recovery and the Pope was able to be about the Vatican. He spent most of his time in prayer. When the Emperor of Austria asked that he send his blessing to the Austrian forces, the Pope solemnly and sorrowfully sent word that he would bless all the combatants. That he considered all of them his children. Finally, he issued an appeal to every Catholic throughout the world to appeal for peace. This appeal was distributed broadcast. As the news of the terrible fighting began to reach the Vatican, the sorrow of the Pope became very great. He had long spells of weeping, and would sit for hours at a time, murmuring prayers for the dying.

On Sunday he was too ill to leave his bed. The doctors in attendance were not alarmed at that. His sickness, which at that time believed to be bronchial catarrh coupled with gouty manifestations, would yield to treatment, but it did not. Yet while conscious, he prayed incessantly. When the doctors gave him liquid nourishment, he would shake his head in mild protest. It was plain he realized that he was very ill, but it was also plain to those about him that the melancholy induced by the war was having a more depressing effect upon him than was his actual illness. It was also certain that the cause of death would be a broken heart. The spirit that had animated His Holiness in his past battle with the illnesses which have attended him was absent this time, so today the members of his household prepared for the end.

### AN ATTACK ON ILLITERACY.

In an effort to banish illiteracy from their borders a number of counties in Kentucky have decided to institute a moonlight school campaign.

The movement is being encouraged by the Kentucky Illiteracy Commission and the counties which have manifested their intention of taking part are Montgomery, Lincoln, Hardin, Clay, McCreary, Mercer, Grayson, Pike, Clinton, Leslie, Kenton and Campbell. Some of them are rural counties while others contain cities or towns of considerable size. September 7 is the date that has been selected for a concerted attack on illiteracy and by that time, it is to be hoped, other counties will be ready to take part.

Rowan, a mountain county, is the home of the moonlight school. Assuredly a method of operation which can bring about the practical banishment of illiteracy from a mountain county can be prosecuted successfully in other counties. A thousand moonlight schools in Kentucky under the direction of competent and conscientious teachers would make a lasting impression on the State's illiteracy record and would raise Kentucky several points in the educational scale.

There are comparatively few persons who are illiterate as a matter of choice. Most of the illiterates would welcome an opportunity to learn how to read and write. This was demonstrated in Rowan county when men and women of advanced age, some of them in the octogenarian class, gladly became pupils in the moonlight schools and diligently labored to throw off the burden of illiteracy. The people of Rowan differ in no wise from the people who inhabit other counties in the State and what has been done there can be done elsewhere.

The moonlight school movement is not impractical. On the contrary, it is probably the most practical way of eliminating illiteracy that has been devised. It can be made a success in any county where teachers and school officials will devote the necessary energy to it.—Courier-Journal.

### EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The Epworth League of the M. E. Church South will serve refreshments in the court house square next Monday beginning at 2:00 p. m. The proceeds will go to Missions. Stop and refresh yourselves and contribute to a needy cause.

### AUGUST TERM OF THE LAWRENCE CIRCUIT COURT.

On Monday next the August term of the Lawrence Circuit Court, "Big Court," will begin. The civil docket holds very many cases, some of them quite important. The penal docket grows smaller every year and the probability is that it will take only a few days to finish it. This shows a much healthier moral condition of the county and is a hopeful sign. The fact is, there has been a rigid enforcement of the laws concerning the liquor traffic in this county and there has been a marked improvement in the morals and manners of the people. The use of intoxicants is "the direful spring of woes unnumbered," and the more the law hedges it about with difficulties the less of it will be consumed. Clerk Hewlett says the various court processes have been generally well served, and a busy term may be expected.

### IN DEFAULT OF BAIL, DENNY IS LODGED IN COUNTY JAIL.

C. N. Denny, the alleged forger with many aliases, whose arrest for forgery was noted in last week's issue, was arraigned before County Judge Clay-ton on Friday and in default of \$500 bail was sent to jail to answer at the next term of the Lawrence Circuit Court.

Denny is the man who obtained a suit of clothes from W. L. Ferguson and a pair of shoes from W. D. Pierce, paying for them in forged checks on the First National, but was arrested before he could get out of town. He is said to be wanted in Huntington on three similar charges.

### ODD FELLOWS HAVE BIG TIME.

Odd Fellows in large numbers assembled in Fallsburg on Saturday last. They assembled ostensibly for "degree" work, and it is reported that they did a great deal of it, but how much work of any sort could have been done after the consumption of 41 gallons of ice cream it is difficult to understand. But they consumed and conferred degrees, the two operations not being concluded until midnight. By actual count 360 persons were served with excellent cream and cake. Bro. H. C. Sullivan addressed the multitude, and those who had saved room enough to hear were able Monday to say that he spoke well.

### FAIR DATES.

The time for holding the Fair has been fixed on September 30th, October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Begin now to get ready for it. More in next week's NEWS.

## THREATENS TO FORFEIT TEXT BOOK CONTRACT.

### Supt. Barksdale Hamlett Has Served Notice on Publishers.

Frankfort, Ky., Aug. 13.—Notice was served today on the contractors who secured contracts from the State Text-book Commission to furnish school books in this State by Barksdale Hamlett, Superintendent of Public Instruction, that unless the law was complied with and the books furnished immediately he would take steps to forfeit the contracts. Hamlett says that he is not looking for the school book depository to furnish the books at the time specified by law, but is looking to the publishers.

The letter follows: "You have secured under the Kentucky act of 1914 a contract for furnish textbooks in Kentucky. This contract should date from July 15, 1914, but in view of certain delays in the in the Textbook Commission's adoption of textbooks for the State, the commission extended to you and other successful bidders the courtesy of giving you until the first day of August, 1914, to supply the legally appointed dealers with these books.

The schools of this State under the law, open on the first Monday in July. I have used my best endeavors to accommodate the publishers of textbooks who have secured these contracts by giving them every consideration possible in the matter of extension of time.

"Now the time has come when these books must be furnished immediately according to your contract with the Commonwealth of Kentucky or else I shall without further notice institute legal proceedings against you looking to the forfeiture of your bond and contract for the sale of the textbooks in the State of Kentucky.

"I am not looking to any intermediary which may be known as a school depository, either located in Louisville or in any other county in the Commonwealth, but I am looking directly to you as the contractor with whom these contracts have been made by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and expect you to see that these books are without further delay distributed under the terms of your contract and in accordance with the act of 1914.

"This is to serve notice that if there is any further delay in the distribution of these books, regardless of depository or other conditions, I shall have the Attorney General of Kentucky file suit in the Franklin Circuit Court in accordance with the provisions of the textbook law of 1914, looking to the forfeiture of your bond and the annulment of your contract, along with all other proper relief under the laws of this Commonwealth."

## WILSON'S MEDIATION NOTE IS ANSWERED.

All Warring Nations But Russia Have  
Acknowledged Its Receipt.

London, Aug. 17.—(7:50 a. m.)—A dispatch to the Chronicle from Paris says that the French Foreign Minister, Premier Viviani, replying to the American offer of mediation, remarked that France had been attacked despite her steady refusal to take the aggressive, and said, in thanking President Wilson: "You may be assured that the French Government and people will recognize in your idea new evidence of your interest in the destinies of France."

Washington, Aug. 17.—Germany has acknowledged receipt of President Wilson's proffer of good offices in mediation or arbitration. All the warring countries except Russia have now replied.

### Ready to Act.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The reply of the French Premier to President Wilson's offer of mediation is not understood to be final at the State Department nor indicating an indisposition on the part of the French Government to consider the proposal. It is construed only as a polite acknowledgment of the offer and about what was to be expected at this time.

The Administration did not expect that mediation would be considered in the first heat of conflict and before any great or decisive battles had been fought. The offer was made simply to remind the participants in the war that the United States stands ready to act without discrimination in the effort to bring about peace when the time is ripe.

This view was set forth clearly by Secretary Bryan in a recent comment upon the President's mediation offer.

### Willing to Listen.

"It may be some time before the nations engaged in the European war will be willing to listen to any suggestion of mediation," he said, "but the President, in tendering the good offices of the Government at this time, has measured up to the responsibilities of the nation and to the expectations of the American people.

"The United States stands for peace—for its preservation as long as it can possible be preserved—and in case of war it stands for the restoration of peace at the earliest possible moment. When the anger of the belligerent nations has sufficiently abated they will find the President waiting to render such assistance as may be within his power in the direction of accommodation and conciliation. He has sent the dove out of the ark in search of dry land—God speed its return with an olive leaf."

### Cause of Russia's Delay.

Secretary Bryan, consistent with his refusal to discuss the replies from any of the Powers, would not go into details as to Germany's acknowledgment, but it is understood, like the others received, to be only an acknowledgment.

Difficulties of communication with Berlin are taken as the cause for the delay in Emperor William's reply. All the others replied several days ago. It is known here that the offer has been received at the St. Petersburg foreign office, but because Russian officials say they have been unable to get it to Emperor Nicholas, acknowledgment has been delayed.

### Answers Noncommittal.

While none of the replies received from any of the European Governments specifically rejects the tender of good offices made by the United States, some acknowledgments are accompanied by statements of the replying nation's position in the conflict. Department officials were inclined to regard the answers as noncommittal and believed more definite answers might be given later, especially if any of the principals in the war showed an inclination to treat for peace.

### LIVE RATTLER IN STREETS OF LOUISA.

On Tuesday last Ed. Kirk and Jack Ward discovered a big live rattlesnake in the street near the gas office. They managed to get it into a box and it is now to be seen at various places. It has seven rattles, and it is supposed that it made its escape from one of the numerous shows which have visited Louisa this season.

### DR. STONEWALL ANDERSON.

Dr. Stonewall Anderson, of Nashville, Tenn., General Secretary of Education of the M. E. Church South, and Dr. U. V. W. Darlington, of Huntington, W. Va., Secretary of Education of the Western Virginia Conference, will deliver addresses at the M. E. Church South Monday, August 24th, at 7:30 p. m. Everybody invited to be present.

### M. E. CHURCH SOUTH.

Sunday School at 9:00 a. m. Let every pupil be present.  
Preaching service at 10:30 a. m. by Prof. E. M. Kennison, and at 7:30 p. m. by the Pastor.  
Junior League at 2:30 p. m.  
Senior League at 6:30 p. m. Mrs. H. C. Sullivan, leader.  
A cordial welcome is extended to all.  
B. M. KEITH, Pastor.